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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 048957

63
ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01

EB-11 L-03 AGR-20 /083 R

DRAFTED BY AF/ N: RHPELLETREAU: AG
3/16/73 EXT. 21194
APPROVED BY AF - AMBASSADOR ROSS
FFP: WJENNETTE (PHONE)
---------- 076167
R 162004 Z MAR 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, TS
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR EL GOULLI INFORMED OF PL-480 TITLE I WHEAT DECISION

1. ON MARCH 15 ACTING ASST. SECY. ROSS INFORMED TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR EL GOULLI THAT US WOULD BE UNABLE PROVIDE WHEAT TO TUNISIA UNDER PL-480 TITLE I IN FY 73 (SEPTEL). CITING DIFFICULT US WHEAT SITUATION AND GOOD TUNISIAN HARVEST AS PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR DECISION, ROSS ASSURED EL GOULLI THAT IT HAD NO POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS AND DID NOT FORECLOSE POSSIBILITY OF TITLE I WHEAT IN FY 74 IF SITUATION WARRANTED. WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE FEED GRAIN PROGRAM, HE SUGGESTED THAT SUBJECT COULD BE EXPLORED FURTHER BY US AND TUNISIAN OFFICIALS IN TUNIS.

2. AMBASSADOR EL GOULLI EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT BUT SAID HE GRATIFIED DECISION HAD NO POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS. HE ASKED WHETHER POSSIBILITY EXISTED OF INCREASING ALREADY-APPROVED 30,000 MT VEGOIL PROGRAM OR PROVIDING BARLEY AS PART OF POSSIBLE FEED GRAIN PROGRAM IN THIS FISCAL YEAR. ROSS REPLIED THAT THESE POSSIBILITIES COULD BE LOOKED INTO AS PART OF DISCUSSIONS IN TUNIS BUT HE DOUBTED WHETHER
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TIME REMAINED IN FY 73 TO DEVELOP ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS. HE
ADVISED AMBASSADOR TO THINK IN TERMS OF FY 74. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

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